

October xx, 2010

Office of the General Counsel

TO: Directors, NASA Centers

FROM: General Counsel

SUBJECT: Invention of the Year Nominations for 2010

The Office of the General Counsel is pleased to support NASA inventors through the Invention of the Year Awards Program. We offer two competitions: (1) the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year and (2) the NASA Government Invention of the Year.

The Invention of the Year Awards are an important part of the NASA patent program. The eligibility requirements for nominations are enclosed and the selection process will be conducted by a panel convened at Headquarters. The winners will be recognized at a ceremony to be held at the 2012 NASA Project Management Challenge and will receive monetary Space Act Awards from the NASA Inventions and Contributions Board.

The eligibility requirements for the NASA Commercial Invention of the Year Award are linked to the National Inventor of the Year event promoted by the Intellectual Property Owners Educational Foundation (IPOEF). Only inventions that were first commercialized to non-government customers during the last four years (2007-2010) will be considered. The NASA Commercial Invention of the Year may be nominated by NASA for the National Award. Later in the year, the National Inventor of the Year is announced by the IPOEF and recognized at a reception in Washington D.C.

The eligibility requirements for the NASA Government Invention of the Year Award are based on the impact the nominations have had on NASA's mission and in other government programs. While commercial sales may exist, the deciding factor for the Government Invention of the Year Award will be Government use.

You are invited to submit a maximum of two nominations, both of which will be considered for each award. Please submit your nominations electronically through your Center's Patent Counsel to the Space Act Awards Liaison Officer, using NASA Form 1329 or 1329A (Space Act Award Application).

Additionally, your Center's Awards Liaison Officer should ensure complete electronic submissions via TechTracS and the MINX file server by close of business December 17, 2010.

Michael C. Wholley